

NEWS ITEM

US Ambassador Launches a Masters Program in Environmental Management and Engineering



Caspian sea wetlands.

Photo: N. Kavetskaya

September 21, 2005, Astana: U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan John Ordway officially launched a new initiative to create a Masters Program in Environmental Management and Engineering at Kazakhstan's Eurasian National University located in Astana. This initiative aims to develop in-country expertise to handle one of Kazakhstan's biggest environmental challenges, air-borne and water-borne industrial pollution.

To support this initiative, USAID/CAR helped create a Global Development Alliance which will work on establishing the new Master of Science degree program for Central Asia. The Alliance also includes the Eurasia Foundation, the University of New Mexico, the Eurasian National University, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and AES Corporation (an American

energy company working in Kazakhstan), which is the largest financial sponsor to the project. USAID is contributing \$100,000. The project will result in a partnership between the University of New Mexico and the Eurasian National University, where the U.S. university will assist with student and faculty exchanges, research, and curriculum development.

The new program will produce a sustainable source of highly-trained environmental engineers with an in-depth understanding of local operating conditions. In the ceremony initiating the program, Ambassador Ordway stated that "Sustainable development is one of the top priorities of USAID assistance, and to ensure the development and implementation of environmental protection strategies, it is essential to have qualified personnel. Qualified environmental engineers who will develop the next generation of environmental solutions is one of the most important resources any government can have."